



Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council

STATE CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER

Certification/Compliance Information

“Full-time” means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

Full-time firefighters are required to be state certified. Effective 07/01/2004, volunteers and part-time firefighters may choose to be state certified, if not required by the authority having jurisdiction.

Firefighter Certification Requirements: O.C.G.A. 25-4-8

1. At least 18 years of age;
2. Not have been convicted of a felony within 10 years prior to employment; There is an exception: Firefighters who have been convicted of a felony and have participated in the Georgia Department of Corrections Firefighter program may be state certified providing certain provision have been met. Refer to O.C.G.A. 25-4-8 (2) for specifics.
3. Have good moral character as determined by investigation under procedure approved by the council;
4. Be fingerprinted and a search made of local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record;
5. Be in good physical condition as determined by a medical examination and successfully pass the minimum physical agility requirements established by the Council;
6. Possess, or achieve within 12 months after employment, a high school diploma or a general education development equivalency.
7. Successfully challenge the Georgia Firefighter Certification Examination.

Minimum Training:

The minimum training requirement for state certified firefighter is the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course as taught by the Georgia Fire Academy or accepted equivalent.

Firefighter Re-certification Procedure:

Firefighter re-certification will consist of two components:

1. **A demonstration of certain core skills/knowledge** to maintain proficiency and
2. **A continued training/education component** to advance a firefighter's level of knowledge and ability.

The **core competency** portion would be subject to the following conditions:

1. The competencies would be specified by GFSTC, based on objectives found in the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course, based upon NFPA 1001, Firefighter Professional Qualifications. All non-core exempt firefighters are required to demonstrate/perform the specified competencies annually.
2. The local department shall determine the method for completion of the competencies. Methods may include drills, training based scenarios, and check-off exercises.
3. The local fire department is to notify GFSTC annually of those individuals who have completed the core competencies.
4. GFSTC may verify completion of competencies by conducting skills tests at fire departments as is deemed necessary.
5. Fire service members may be designated by the local fire chief as **core exempt** and are not required to complete core competencies but do have additional annual training requirements.

The **continued annual training** component is subject to the following conditions:

1. Every non-core exempt firefighter, in addition to annual completion of core competencies, is required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of relevant training at a class/training session **pre-accepted** by GFSTC.
2. Core exempt fire service members are not required to complete annual core competencies but are required to complete **40 hours** of relevant training at a classes/training sessions **pre-accepted** by GFSTC.
3. The local fire chief may choose **not** to designate anyone as core exempt and select to complete the same requirements as non-core exempt personnel.

Training that is conducted to meet the re-certification requirements must be conducted in a professional organized manner and meet specific criteria defined by GFSTC.

**Recognition of Firefighter Incumbents –
Until 12/31/2006:**

1. Anyone who has been performing the duties of a Firefighter prior to 07/01/2004 and who has completed the employment requirements specified is deemed as having met the initial requirements for Firefighter and will be issued a certificate as such.
2. Anyone who has completed the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course and passes the Firefighter certification examination and who has completed the employment requirements specified is deemed as having met the initial requirements for Firefighter and will be issued a certificate as such.

Firefighter training and testing requirements beginning 01/01/2007:

Option A:

1. Completed the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course.
2. Challenges and passes the Firefighter certification examination within one year prior to the date of certification.

3. If the date of completion of the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course is in excess of 60 months or prior to 07/01/2004, (which ever is the lesser), the candidate must:
 - a. Present proof of an average of 24 hours per year of accepted Firefighter training.
 - OR
 - b. Present documentation to the Georgia Firefighter Review Committee requesting acceptance recommendation through a combination of training and/or experience as a Firefighter.

Option B:

1. Completed training as determined by the Georgia Firefighter Review Committee as equal to or exceeding the Georgia Basic Firefighter Training Course.
2. Challenges and passes the Firefighter certification examination within one year prior to the date of certification.
3. If the date of completion of the equivalent training course is in excess of 60 months or prior to 07/01/2004, (which ever is the lesser), the candidate must:
 - a. Present proof of an average of 24 hours per year of accepted relevant Firefighter training.
 - OR
 - b. Present documentation to the Georgia Firefighter Review Committee requesting acceptance recommendation through a combination of training and/or experience as a Firefighter.

Georgia Firefighter Review Committee:

The Georgia Firefighter Review Committee shall function with an advisory capacity to Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and consist of subject matter experts such as representatives from the following:

- Georgia State Fire Marshal or his/her representative.
- Georgia Fire Academy Director or his/her representative.
- County Fire Department Fire Chief or his/her representative
- City/Municipal Fire Department Fire Chief or his/her representative
- Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs President or his/her representative
- Georgia State Firefighters Association President or his/her representative